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Gut publishes original papers and reviews concerned with practice and research in the field of gastroenterology. The field is that of alimentary, hepatic, or pancreatic disease, and papers may cover the medical, surgical, radiological, or historical aspects. They may also deal with the basic sciences concerned with the alimentary tract, including experimental work. The report of a single case will be accepted only if it is of sufficient interest in relation to a wider field of research.

COMMUNICATIONS Two copies of papers and figures should be addressed to the Editor, *Gut*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9JR. Papers are accepted only on the understanding that they are not published elsewhere without previous sanction of the Editorial Committee. Manuscripts should follow the Vancouver conventions (see *Br Med J* 1979; 1: 532-5. *Gut* 1979; 20: 651-2). They should be in double-spaced typewriting on one side of the paper only. On the paper the name of the author should appear with initials (or distinguishing Christian name) only, and the name and address of the hospital or laboratory where the work was performed. A short summary should be provided at the beginning of the paper.

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ETHICS Ethical considerations will be taken into account in the assessment of papers (see the Medical Research Council's publications on the ethics of human experimentation, and the World Medical Association's code of ethics, known as the Declaration of Helsinki (see *Br Med J* 1964; 2: 177).

SI UNITS All measurements except blood pressure are expressed in SI units. In the text they should be followed by traditional units in parentheses. In tables and illustrations values are given only in SI units, but a conversion factor must be supplied. For general guidance on the International System of Units, and some useful conver-

sion factors, see *The SI for the Health Professions* (WHO, 1977). Such conversion is the responsibility of the author.

REFERENCES These follow the Vancouver system—that is, references numbered consecutively in the text and listed numerically with titles abbreviated in the style of *Index Medicus. Standard journal article*—(list all authors when six or less; when seven or more, list first three and add *et al.*): James A, Joyce B, Harvey T. Effect of long-term cimetidine. *Gut* 1979; 20: 123-4. **NB: Accurate punctuation is essential.**

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Books

Medical Aspects of Dietary Fiber Edited by G A Spiller and R McPherson Kay. (Pp 300. Illustrated. £32.50.) Plenum Medical: New York/London. 1980.

This comprehensive volume is directed at physicians, clinical nutritionists, and investigators in fibre research. It provides information on the effects of different fibres on gut function; recapitulates the evidence for a relationship between fibre and diverticular disease, colon cancer, and obesity; and summarises the important effects of fibre on lipid and carbohydrate metabolism. An authoritative list of contributors ensures that the book is always reasonable. In some areas—for example, fibre and the small intestine—there are few hard data and some padding is evident. In the area of plasma and biliary lipids the different fibres have such diverse effects that no coherent message emerges. Perhaps the strongest part of the book is the section on the effects of fibre on carbohydrates, metabolism, and diabetes. There is plenty in this book for both ardent advocates of fibre and those who still remain sceptical of its capacity to change anything other than stool weight.

V CHADWICK

A Colour Atlas of Nutritional Disorders By Donald S McLaren. (Pp 109. Illustrated. £15.00.) Wolfe Medical Publications: London. 1981.

Of all diseases those due to nutritional deficiencies are usually the most amenable to treatment, provided that the particular deficiency can be recognised and the nutrient that is lacking supplied. Failure to initiate highly effective treatment usually reflects failure to recognise the clinical signs of nutritional deficiencies. Moreover, in the countries in which these diseases are most fre-

quently encountered laboratory procedures for their detection are often beyond the resources available. Any means that can be provided to assist their clinical detection are therefore of the utmost importance, and without doubt good illustrations are of far greater value than descriptive words.

For these and other reasons the colour atlas of nutritional disorders is a valuable and important book. Not only could it be an aid to those involved in teaching, but it would be a valuable addition to hospital libraries, particularly in the third world.

Every disease dealt with is beautifully illustrated and the descriptive text can consequently be kept to a minimum. The first part deals with the various aspects of protein-energy-malnutrition with both clinical and radiological aids to diagnosis. The second part deals quite magnificently with vitamin deficiencies and toxicity. It contains over 120 illustrations, most of which are in colour. The third part on element, water and electrolyte deficiency and toxicity is supported by profuse clinical, haematological, and radiological photographs, again mostly in colour. Then come chapters on diet-responsive metabolic disorders and on food toxins, with a short final chapter on diseases of uncertain aetiology.

Altogether a book to be highly recommended. One would like to see more diseases dealt with in this superbly pictorial manner.

D P BURKITT

Medical Complications of Obesity Edited by M Mancini, B Lewis, and F Contardo. (Pp 407. Illustrated. £20.80; \$50.) Academic Press: London. 1981.

This book consists of the papers presented at a large symposium in Naples in June 1978. It contains seven sections relating obesity to diabetes, hyperlipidaemia, liver function, cardio-respiratory complications, reproduction and endocrinology, joint and bone disease, psychological aspects, and a last section dealing with the complications of treating obesity. Each section is headed by authoritative papers from internationally recognised experts, whose observations have often been already published elsewhere, and is followed by papers largely from Italian sources. Many papers are very interesting but the disparate elements do not

make a satisfactory whole. Moreover, the conference was made enjoyable and instructive by the lively discussion that followed each paper. These are not available in this book, which, at £20.80, can therefore not be wholeheartedly recommended to the general reader.

T R E PILKINGTON

Topics in Gastroenterology 8 Edited by S C Truelove and H J Kennedy (Pp 301 +index. Illustrated. £16.00.) Blackwell Scientific Publications: Oxford. 1980.

This volume, the eighth in a series 'designed to provide gastroenterologists and non-specialists with an informed and up-to-date account of selected topics of current interest' successfully achieves that aim, though at a price which could lessen its appeal to the general reader. The twenty-five topics cover parenteral feeding, the treatment of Crohn's disease, and aspects of ulcerative colitis, with a concluding miscellany of pseudo-membranous and ischaemic colitis followed by surgery for obesity and hyperlipidaemia.

Probably because this publication is a transcript of a series of lectures, the topics on parenteral feeding are very repetitive. Several deal with 'angio access' and the Oxford regimen is tabulated twice. However, the biochemical background to parenteral nutrition is well described and practical details clearly set out. The section on the treatment of Crohn's disease contains a succinct review covering surgical and nutritional aspects before summarising the results of drug trials, and topics deal with medical and surgical treatment in more detail. The section on ulcerative colitis starts with a good review of aetiological theories, emphasising the immunological disturbances. Later topics largely reflect the Oxford experience of this disease and are well supported by data. These include ulcerative colitis in childhood and pregnancy (practical advice given), life with an ileostomy by a satisfied male customer (an 'ostomist'), and a discussion of both ileorectal anastomosis and the continent ileostomy.

The nature of this volume makes for easy reading. Some chapters could well serve as sources of reference and those on parenteral nutrition as a handbook for quick consultation. I can commend it.

D E BARNARDO

Developments in Digestive Diseases By J Edward Berk. (Pp 258. Illustrated. £11.50.) Lea and Febiger: Philadelphia. 1980.

Developments in Digestive Diseases seems destined to become an annual review. This is the third in the series and once again we are offered a well-printed slim volume. The Editor claims to have chosen topics in which developments have reached the stage of major clinical relevance. One might disagree with his choice but one can only applaud the speed with which he and his publishers have produced a series of interesting chapters over a wide range of subjects backed by very recent references (several belonging to the year of publication).

The following topics are covered: endoscopic control of gastrointestinal bleeding (which rather misses out on the use of the flexible gastroscope for the injection of bleeding varices); proximal gastric vagotomy (the least recent development); breath tests (nicely described but somewhat uncritical); enteral hyperalimentation (a bit portentous); infectious diarrhoea (a useful summary of the present situation); inflammatory bowel disease (immunological developments and genetic influences). Functional scintigraphy (an enthusiastic

affirmation); biofeedback training in digestive disease (a restrained review of a subject which has excited little attention in the United Kingdom); newer gut hormones and hormone candidates (a subject which needs repeated updating); somatostatin (a chapter to itself); acute viral hepatitis (careful and comprehensive); and, finally, non-surgical biliary decompression (which may encourage more widespread use of a number of useful techniques).

Altogether a good read but one cannot help wondering how many more review series the market can stand.

G NEALE

Books received

The Management of Difficult Surgical Problems Edited by Thomas A Miller and Stanley J Dudrick. (Pp 304; illustrated; \$35.00). Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press. 1981.

Del Juramento de Maimonides a la Declaracion de Helsinki By Joel Valencia-Parparcen. (Pp 95; price not stated.) Caracas: Centro Medico de Caracas. 1980.

Adhesion and Microorganism Pathogenicity Ciba Foundation Symposium 80. (Pp 346; illustrated; price not stated.) London: Pitman Medical. 1981.

Basic Gastroenterology: including diseases of the liver By A E Read, R F Harvey, and J M Naish. (Pp 558; illustrated; £20.) Bristol: Wright. 1981.

Smooth Muscle: an Assessment of Current Knowledge Edited by Edith Bulbring, Alison F Brading, Allan W Jones and Tadao Tomita. (Pp 563; illustrated; £45.) London: Edward Arnold. 1981.

Scandinavian Journal of Gastroenterology. XI International Congress of Gastroenterology - Carbenoxolone Symposium Edited by Sir Francis Avery Jones, T C Hunt, and P I Reed. (Pp 120; illustrated.) Oslo: Universitetsforlaget. 1980.

Correction

Effect of intestinal surgery on the risk of urinary stone formation, by C P Bambach, W G Robertson, M Peacock, and G L Hill, *Gut*, April 1981, p 261. The end of the first paragraph of the Discussion should read as follows:

'Patients with small bowel resection and an intact colon maintain normal urinary volume and pH and have no increased risk of uric acid stones. However, they do have an increased risk of forming calcium oxalate stones. In the majority of patients this is due to hyperoxaluria and in others low GAG inhibitors are a factor.'

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